



From Edward:

Among the many uncertainties of the current crisis there is, understandably, huge concern over the state of money: What will be the impact on the economy? How are the poorest families going to get by if they cannot access their support channels? Will business survive the loss of trade? Will there even be any money left when we come out of lockdown?

This is having an impact on the church as well, and while we continue to be appreciative and extremely grateful to those who continue to give generously whilst services are suspended, we have come to learn how dependent we are on the weekly passing of the collection plate, and also the revenue generated by our Church Hall.

St John's does, of course have a series of 'silent' running costs simply to ensure the building remains standing and will be usable at such a date as we can re-enter its walls. We also, like the vast majority of churches, give a significant amount to our Diocese which goes to support a vast enterprise including projects such as foodbanks which supporting the most vulnerable and international outreach in our partner Dioceses across the world (and not to mention covering the stipends of the Diocesan Clergy!).

With the amount that we receive down we are hit in the amount that we can give, and so churches everywhere are needing to appeal to the generosity of those who can give: You may already give to St John's, you may be in a position to give a bit more, or you may be considering giving to us for the first time. There's a standing order form attached to this email for regular giving and if you wish to make a one off donation then please use our Just Giving page (details below): You may also wish to share the Just Giving link to encourage a bit of 'crowd funding' – you never know who might have a few spare millions they don't want their kids to inherit!

Stay safe!

Edward

Needing support?: The current global situation is a cause of anxiety and worry for many of us. If you need someone to talk to, spiritual support, or if you are looking for assistance with shopping or collecting medication please contact Edward at fr.edwardbarlow@gmail.com or call 01322521786.

Suspended Sermon: Edward's sermons are available [here](#). This week's sermon is entitled 'What is it Like to be a Bat?'.

Giving: St John's continues to need your support financially throughout the current emergency. If you wish to give regularly please use the standing order form attached to this email or for a one off giving please use our [JustGiving Page](#).

Social Media: Remember you can engage with us on Facebook ([/stjohnsbexley](#)) and Twitter ([@stjohnsbexley](#)).

Beacons of Hope: Throughout the lockdown the Dioceses of Rochester and Canterbury are working together to bring us a series of video reflections. These can be accessed [on the Diocesan YouTube Channel](#).

Rochester Cathedral: Rochester Cathedral celebrating Choral Evensong [via their website](#), using material produced prior to lockdown.

Prayers for use during the Coronavirus Outbreak: The Church of England has produced a booklet of prayers to aid devotions at home during the current crisis. It is available [here](#), along with other prayer resources and advice (scroll down the webpage for the booklet).

Daily Hope: The Archbishop of Canterbury has launched a free national phoneline with hymns, reflections and prayers to enable worship from home throughout the lockdown. Details are available [here](#) and you may wish to pass the information on to those you know who cannot access resources online.



Domestic Abuse: As you will have heard, the current situation has seen an unpleasant increase in incidences of Domestic Abuse. Bishop Simon has commended recent advice issued by the national church in response to this and details can be found [here](#)

Bexley Team News: The weekly newsletter connecting us with our sister churches across the Bexley Team is attached to this email.

Toddler Church Fun!: Children's activities exploring the story of Jacob are attached to this email.

Devotional Pattern: Readings for the forthcoming week, with suggested hymns, prayer intentions and questions to consider are attached to this email.

VE Day reflection: The Team Rector's video reflection for VE day is available to watch [on the St James North Cray website](#).

This Week Please Pray For:

...Hayley and Sam, whose wedding has been postponed from 9th May.

...the sick in need of our prayers, Barbara, Rob Soar, Mavis Johnson, Samantha Pout, Ray Mace, Marie Berry, Maggie Rankine, Ann Harlow, Ray Miller, Joyce Forrest, Dorothy Samuel, John Beddison, David Watkins, Nicola Johns and any others known to you.

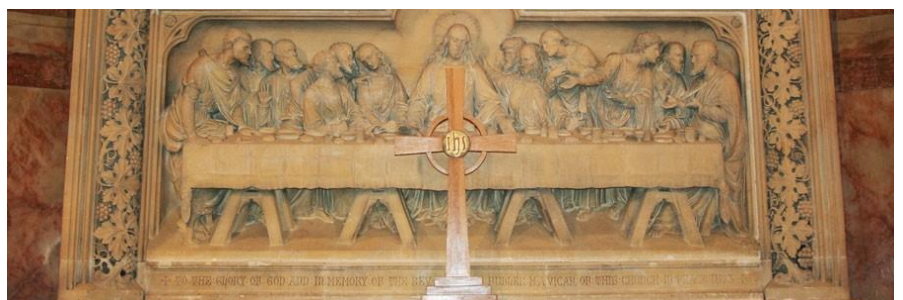
...all currently suffering with Covid-19.

...the recently departed, Reg Haddaway, Jack Onyewuenyi, Florence Russell, Leslie Nash, Yvonne O'Nions.

...those whose anniversaries fall at this time George Grant, John Macleod, Noreen Saunders, Lily Mingard, Stephen Farrell, Joan Bell, Barbara Wright.

...residents living in and around our parish.

O God,
Help us to trust you,
Help us to know that you are with
us,
Help us to believe
That nothing can separate us~
From your love
Revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen



Our Safeguarding Statement can be read at <http://www.stjohnsbexley.org/safeguarding-statement.html>

If you or someone you are concerned about is in immediate danger, please call the police on 999

<https://bexleywomensaid.org.uk/>

<https://mensadviceline.org.uk/>

<https://www.childline.org.uk/>